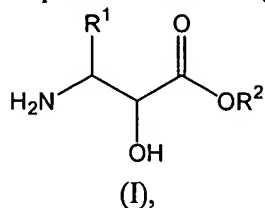


### IN THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended): A compound of formula (I)



or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

$R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkylsulfanylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, ~~(heterocycle)alkyl~~, and hydroxyalkyl; and

$R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkenyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl[[,]] and (cycloalkyl)alkyl[[,]] ~~heterocycle, and (heterocycle)alkyl~~.

2 (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein  $R^2$  is hydrogen.

3 (original): The compound of claim 2 wherein  $R^1$  is alkylsulfanylalkyl.

4 (original): The compound of claim 3 selected from the group consisting of  
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(methylsulfanyl)pentanoic acid;  
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoic acid;  
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoic acid; and  
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(*tert*-butylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoic acid.

5 (original): The compound of claim 2 wherein  $R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, and hydroxyalkyl.

6 (original): The compound of claim 5 selected from the group consisting of  
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-4-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxybutanoic acid;  
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-3-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxypropanoic acid;  
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-phenylpentanoic acid;  
(2*S*,3*R*,4*S*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-4-(3-hydroxypropyl)-7-methyloctanoic acid; and  
(2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-6-phenylhexanoic acid.

7 (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein  $R^2$  is arylalkyl.

8 (original): The compound of claim 7 wherein  $R^1$  is alkylsulfanylalkyl.

9 (original): The compound of claim 8 selected from the group consisting of

(2*S*)-2-(methylamino)-2-(1-naphthyl)ethyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;  
 (2*R*)-2-(methylamino)-2-(1-naphthyl)ethyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;  
 2-(methylamino)-2-(1-naphthyl)propyl (3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;  
 and  
 benzyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate.

10 (original): The compound of claim 7 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, and (cycloalkyl)alkyl.

11 (original): The compound of claim 10 selected from the group consisting of  
 benzyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-3-cyclopentyl-2-hydroxypropanoate;  
 benzyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-3-cycloheptyl-2-hydroxypropanoate;  
 (2*R*)-2-(methylamino)-2-(1-naphthyl)ethyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-4-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxybutanoate; and  
 (2*R*)-2-(methylamino)-2-(1-naphthyl)ethyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-phenylpentanoate.

12 (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is alkyl.

13 (original): The compound of claim 12 selected from the group consisting of  
 methyl (3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(methylsulfanyl)pentanoate;  
 methyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-4-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxybutanoate;  
 methyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;  
 butyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;  
 isopropyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoate;  
 isopropyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;  
*sec*-butyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate; and  
*sec*-butyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoate.

14 (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl[[,]] and aryl[[,]] ~~heterocycle and (heterocycle)alkyl.~~

15 (currently amended): The compound of claim 14 selected from the group consisting of  
 (1*S*,2*R*)-2-amino-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-1-yl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-4-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxybutanoate;

[(2,2-dimethylpropanoyl)oxy]methyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate[[]] and  
~~(1,3-dioxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-isoindol-2-yl)methyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;~~  
 [(2,2-dimethylpropanoyl)oxy]methyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoate[[]]  
~~(1,3-dioxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-isoindol-2-yl)methyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoate; and~~  
~~3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2-benzofuran-1-yl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoate.~~

16 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a therapeutically acceptable carrier.

claims 17-18 (cancelled)